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Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
Fourth meeting
Cape Town, South Africa, 2-5 March 2015

Provisional agenda and organization of work

Background

On the recommendation of the General Assembly,[1] the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice established the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners to exchange information on best practices, national legislation and existing international law, and on the revision of existing Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

In the course of three meetings, in Vienna from 31 January to 2 February 2012, Buenos Aires from 11 to 13 December 2012 and Vienna from 25 to 28 March 2014, the Expert Group reported to the Commission on its progress in identifying thematic areas and specific rules for revision, and in drafting specific proposals for some of the rules.[2]

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 69/192, entitled "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners", the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of the Expert Group, authorizing it to continue its work, with the aim of reaching a consensus, and to present a report for the information of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and for the consideration of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fourth session.

In paragraphs 6 to 8 of resolution 69/192, the Assembly further highlighted a number of principles that should guide the continued revision process, including the principles that:

(a) Any changes to the Standard Minimum Rules should not lower any of the existing standards, but should reflect the recent advances in correctional science and

[1] Resolution 65/230, para. 10.
[2] See UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.6/2012/1, UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.6/2012/4 and E/CN.15/2014/19.

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good practices so as to promote safety, security and humane conditions for prisoners;

(b) The revision process should maintain the existing scope of application of the Standard Minimum Rules and continue to take into account the social, legal and cultural specificities, as well as human rights obligations, of Member States.

In paragraph 12 of the same resolution, the Bureau of the Expert Group at its third meeting was invited to continue to be involved in the revision of the rules by preparing, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a revised consolidated working paper, in all official languages of the United Nations, consisting of the draft revised rules, which should reflect the progress achieved so far, including the recommendations made by the Expert Group at its meetings held in Buenos Aires in 2012 and in Vienna in 2014, also taking into account proposals for revision put forward by Member States in relation to the areas and rules identified by the General Assembly in paragraph 6 of its resolution 67/188, for submission to and consideration by the Expert Group at its next meeting.

The revised consolidated working paper prepared by the Bureau of the Expert Group, with the assistance of the Secretariat (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.6/2015/2), will be before the Expert Group at its fourth meeting.

The provisional agenda and organization of work below are proposed for adoption by the Expert Group at its fourth meeting.

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Preliminary observations.
5. Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper prepared by the Bureau of the Expert Group at its third meeting.
6. Other business.
7. Recommendations and conclusions.

Proposed organization of work

Monday, 2 March 2015

10-11 a.m.	*Item 1.*	Opening of the meeting
	Item 2.	Election of officers Chair Vice-Chairs Rapporteur
	Item 3.	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	*Item 4.*	Preliminary observations
1-3 p.m.		Lunch break
3-6 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper prepared by the Bureau of the Expert Group at its third meeting Area (a): Respect for prisoners' inherent dignity and value as human beings Area (e): Protection and special needs of vulnerable groups deprived of their liberty, taking into consideration countries in difficult circumstances Rules 6; 57-59; and 60, para. 1

Tuesday, 3 March 2015

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (b): Medical and health services Rules 22-26
1-3 p.m.		Lunch break
3-4.30 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (b): Medical and health services (*continued*) Rules 33; 52; 62; and 71, para. 2
4.30-6 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (c): Disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet Rules 27; 29; and 30, para. 1

Wednesday, 4 March 2015		
10-11.30 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (c): Disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet (*continued*) Rules 31-32; and 34 bis
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (d): Investigation of all deaths in custody, as well as any signs or allegations of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners Rules 7; 44; and 44 bis
1-3 p.m.		Lunch break
3-6 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (f): The right of access to legal representation Rules 30; 35, para.1; 37, 37 bis and 37 ter; and 93
Thursday, 5 March 2015		
10 a.m.-12 noon	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (g): Complaints and independent inspection Rules 36 and 55
12 noon-1 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (i): Training of relevant staff to implement the Standard Minimum Rules Rule 47
1-3 p.m.		Lunch break
3-4 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of the revised consolidated working paper (*continued*) Area (h): The replacement of outdated terminology Preliminary observation 5; rules 82-83; various other rules
4-4.30 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Other business
4.30-6 p.m.	*Item 7.*	Recommendations and conclusions